

REMARKS

With this amendment, claims 1-18 are in this application. New claims 7-18 have been added. The present set of claims contains 5 independent claims. A fee for two additional independent claims is enclosed to the present amendment.

35 USC 102(b) (Claims 1-5)

In his Action of April 24, 2003, the Examiner rejects claims 1-5 under 35 USC 102(b) because anticipated by US Patent No. 4,703,668 to Peter. Applicant submits that claims 1-6, including amended claim 1, are patentable over Peter. Support for the amended language of claim 1 can be found, for example in Figs. 7, 8, 10, 11a or 11b.

Amended claim 1 recites that "*a robotic joint [comprises] a first bay having a first bay rotation axis; a first cup having a first cup rotation axis . . . ; a second cup having a second cup rotation axis . . . a second bay having a second bay rotation axis . . . wherein the first bay rotation axis is aligned with the second bay rotation axis; the first cup rotation axis and second cup rotation axis are aligned when the joint is in a straight position . . .*" (emphasis added).

The Applicant submits that Peter does not teach, disclose, or suggest these features. Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicant, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner show where Peter discloses the recited feature.

Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 1 as amended is patentable over Peter, together with claims 2-5, which directly or indirectly depend on claim 1.

35 USC 103(a) (Claim 6)

In his Action of April 24, 2003, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) because allegedly obvious over Peter as applied to claim 5, in view of US Patent No. 4,499,784 to Shum.

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The Applicant submits that neither Peter nor Shum teach, disclose, or suggest, alone or in combination, the features introduced in claim 1 as amended above, on which claim 6 indirectly depends. Should the Examiner disagree with the Applicant, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner show where Peter or Shum disclose, alone or in combination, the above recited features. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 6 is patentable over the cited prior art.

New claims 7-18

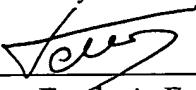
New claims 7-18 have been added. Support for the added claims can be found in the specification. In particular: claim 7 is supported by Fig. 12; claims 8 and 12 are supported at page 18, last three paragraphs; claim 9-11 are supported by Fig. 8; claims 13 and 15 are supported at page 13, line 2; claim 14 is supported by Fig. 13; claim 17 is supported by claim 8; and claim 18 is supported by Fig. 25.

No new matter has been added. Applicant submits that claims 7-18 are patentable over the cited prior art.

* * *

Applicant believes that all claims of the application are in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: - Postcard
- Petition for a three-month extension of time (in duplicate)
- Fee Transmittal sheet
- Check in the sum of \$ 561
- Change of Correspondence Address form

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Frederic Farina

(Name of Registered Representative)

A handwritten signature of Frederic Farina.

Signature

October 20, 2003

Date

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